

Swann Renews His Attack on Grand Jurors

**'Real Overshadowing Crime,'
He Says, Is Spreading of
Propaganda Defaming and
Threatening City Officials**

Also Assails Interborough

**Stockholders of Company
Got Excess Profits in For-
mer Years, He Declares**

An attack by District Attorney Swann on the Interborough Rapid Transit Company and its policies was the only development yesterday in the extraordinary grand jury's investigation of the city administration and Mr. Swann's office.

Mr. Swann declared that as soon as he began inquiring into the Interborough's plea for an eight-cent fare and statements made in 1918, when J. P. Morgan floated a \$33,000,000 note issue for the road, and T. P. Shonts, then its president, predicted a rosy future on the basis of a five-cent fare, his position with the extraordinary grand jury "became impossible."

Mr. Swann further charged that while he was in the "midst of the cross-examination of Frank Hedley, then vice-president of the Interborough, the extraordinary grand jury, without a moment's notice, filed into court and said they wanted private counsel assigned to them."

Commenting on the Altiman panel's charge of an "overshadowing crime" Mr. Swann said:

"The real 'overshadowing crime' is the spreading of insidious propaganda, defaming and threatening public officials, with the apparent intent of intimidating them from performing their legal duty." His statement continues:

"With a five-cent fare, free from entangling alliances with other roads, the Interborough would produce revenues that should satisfy any reasonable person. In order, however, to monopolize the transportation business of Manhattan as far as possible, they took over the operations and assumed the burdens of other roads. They were duly warned of their risks, but disregarded the warning."

"The city is no partner to these overreaching contracts, but insists that they operate the Subway for the five-cent fare agreed upon, which pays the Subway a profit. The real point is that the stockholders of the Interborough have heretofore received excess profits. Would there be an injustice in asking them to turn back a part of these excess profits in lean years? Or, after having gathered in the excess profits in the fat years should they call upon the public to pay an extra fare in the lean years, despite the fact that their contract calls for a five-cent fare at all times?"

"All of the Interborough stock received these excess cash profits, but not all of the Interborough stock represents cash paid in or invested. Will the Interborough deny that the net earnings already received have equaled about three times the amount of the cash paid in for the stock? And will they deny that they turned over \$4,000,000 of this stock for the mere assignment of two contracts, and will they deny that they gave \$1,500,000 of their stock, then selling at \$200 per share, to a gentleman to pay him for the worthless City Island one-share line for which he had just paid \$22,000, and all of this stock has since earned 187 per cent net profit; and will they deny that this line for which they gave their stock worth \$2,000,000 to one of their own directors was soon thereafter discontinued, and that nothing remained but two streaks of rust without now a right of way because of non-use?"

Governor Smith, still at the bedside of his mother in Brooklyn yesterday, disposed of neither the jury's request for the Attorney General's aid nor Mr. Swann's plea for another Grand Jury.

German Envoy Leaves Paris

**To Consult With Government
On Armistice Clauses**

PARIS, Nov. 22.—Herr von Strösem, head of the Berlin foreign office and plenipotentiary sent by the German government to Paris in connection with the protocol which the Allies have demanded shall be executed by Germany to guarantee the carrying out of the armistice terms, will leave here to-night to consult the Berlin government and obtain the approval of the National Assembly to the new provisions in the protocol.

The points upon which authorization is especially required are those concerning the armistice clauses with which the Germans have failed to comply.

**Films Will Be Used
To Educate Public
To Stop Fire Losses**

**Series of Pictures Planned
by National Association
in Effort to Reduce Big
Damage Waste Each Year**

The National Fire Prevention Association, with headquarters in Boston, in whose membership virtually all of the fire underwriting and manufacturing associations of the country are represented, is in possession of reports which show that in some cities of the United States the annual fire loss per capita amounts to \$8 and \$10, while in other cities where the proper precautions are taken the loss is as low as 32 cents for each person.

Fire loss in the United States last year was \$317,000,000, most of which was preventable. The figures just issued have brought to all concerned—national and state governments, manufacturers, property owners, municipal officials, fire departments, fire insurance underwriters—full realization of the enormous economic waste which sooner or later, if permitted to continue, will bankrupt the country. No other nation in the world labors under such a financial handicap, by reason of carelessness which can be considered no less than criminal.

How to get the well established lessons of fire prevention before the whole public has been a great problem. The newspapers and magazines have done and are doing their part. But something more is needed, and now the men and organizations in charge of the work have arranged for a national motion picture campaign in the belief that results can be obtained which will be reflected at once in American life.

Harry Levey, managing director of the educational department of the Universal Film Manufacturing Company, for the various committees and associations, is producing a series of motion pictures which cover every phase of fire prevention, from the carelessness of tobacco smokers to the explosion of dust in a grain elevator.

It is the consensus of opinion that the screen will be effective in this campaign to the extent of many millions of dollars a year. The special films prepared by Mr. Levey will be shown in theaters, of course, for the human interest element will predominate in all of them; but the uses to be made by municipal fire departments, in factories, in stores, in mines, in homes, will be a guarantee that the lessons of fire prevention will be universally taught.

Working with the Bureau of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture, the Universal's educational department will take up the problem of the cigar and cigarette and sparks from lit pipes. This will be done by means of romance and comedies that will be of absorbing interest and which will carry the lessons calculated to limit if not eliminate entirely the carelessness of the average American smoker.

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